

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 09263 211617Z

65

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 IO-10

ACDA-10 /086 W

----- 126583

R 210934Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4498

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 9263

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VS

SUBJ: CHATCHAI ON THE PRG DELEGATION VISIT TO BANGKOK

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: BANGKOK 9170

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE  
MAY 19. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS  
REMARKS ON THE PRG DELEGATION VISIT TO BANGKOK.

BEGIN EXERPT:

CHATCHAI: I WILL NOW READ YOU THE STATEMENT ISSUED ON THE TALKS  
WITH SOUTH VIENAM. (READS THE STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS BANGKOK 9134) HAVE YOU ANY QUESTIONS TO ASK ME?

REPORTER: WHAT ACTION WILL WE TAKE IN REGARD TO THIS PROBLEM  
CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL LAW?

CHATCHAI: WE MUST ASK BOTH SIDES WHAT AGREEMENT THEY MIGHT  
HAVE. ON THE AMERICAN SIDE, THE UNITED STATES STATES IT HAS AN  
AGREEMENT WITH THE FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. WE, ON  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 09263 211617Z

OUR PART, MUST ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AS

THE BASIS ON WHICH TO DETERMINE CLAIMS. IF SOUTH VIETNAM HAD CLAIMED THE ARMAMENTS AND PROPERTY AS BELONGING TO IT, WITH NOBODY DISPUTING ITS CLAIM, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN GLAD TO RETURN THEM TO IT AT ONCE. FOR INSTANCE, WE HAVE RETURNED AIR VIETNAM PLANES WHICH WERE HERE. WE ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF JUSTICE AND TO THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AS THE BASIS ON WHICH TO DETERMINE CLAIMS.

REPORTER: THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION SAID THAT AMERICA...

CHATCHAI: I MUST INFORM YOU THAT THAT STATEMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM WAS DRAFTED LONG BEFOREHAND, BECAUSE THE DELEGATION LEFT ME AT 11:30 A.M., THEREFORE IT COULD NOT HAVE HAD TIME TO DRAFT IT AT ONCE. IT THEREFORE ISSUED THE STATEMENT IT HAD PREPARED AND BROUGHT WITH IT, BECAUSE IT MUST HAVE REALIZED IT WOULD MOST PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO DRAFT A STATEMENT AND ISSUE IT AT ONCE. BUT IT IS A FACT THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS JUST HELD ARE ONLY A START, AN OVERTURE, THAT NO TALKS HAVE BEEN HELD ON ANYTHING AT ALL YET. IT WAS A MEETING ONLY TO MAKE ACQUAINTANCE, TO KNOW EACH OTHER'S ATTITUDE AS TO WHETHER WE COULD BE FRIENDS. MY PERSONAL FEELING IS THAT IT HAS AN ATTITUDE WHICH IS FRIENDLY TOWARD US ALSO. HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANY SIDE WITH WHICH WE HAVE NOT HAD FRIENDLY RELATIONS FOR AS LONG AS 30 YEARS MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR ANY DECISION TO BE REACHED AT ONCE. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE MET REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH VIETNAM'S NEW GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN THAT COUNTRY WAS NOT A PARLIAMENTARY FORM OF CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR YEARS AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS JUST BEEN CHANGED. SO FAR AS WE KNOW, CIVIL WAR HAS BEEN WAGED IN SOUTH VIETNAM FOR YEARS. THEREFORE, THESE NEGOTIATIONS WERE A START ONLY AND FURTHER MEETINGS AND NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE HELD. I THINK THAT THE NEXT MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN SAIGON.

REPORTER: DO WE FEEL WORRIED, BECAUSE IN THAT STATEMENT IT IS SAID THAT THAILAND SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEMANDING THE RETURN OF ITS PROPERTIES, AIRCRAFT, AND VESSELS FROM AMERICA IN ORDER TO RETURN THEM TO IT.

CHATCHAI: WILL YOU GO AND DEMAND THEIR RETURN? I DON'T KNOW  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 09263 211617Z

HOW TO DO THAT. SINCE THERE ARE TWO COMPETING CLAIMS, AMERICA STATING IT IS THEIR PROPERTY AND SOUTH VIETNAM STATING IT IS THE PROPERTY, HOW CAN WE GO AND DEMAND THEM TO BE RETURNED. SHOULD WE NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THEM, THEN WHAT COULD WE DO? IT WOULD ONLY CAUSE US INCREASED WORRY AND TROUBLE. WE HAVE HUNDREDS OF PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN WHICH WE MUST REMEDY, THEREFORE I REALLY WISH THAT SOUTH VIETNAM WOULD ITSELF HOLD NEGOTIATIONS AND REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES. TO WHOM THESE

AGREEMENTS AND ASSETS BELONG, AND WHAT KIND OF AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED, IS A SUBJECT ON WHICH THERE IS ONLY SPECULATION. BUT SINCE WE WISH TO HAVE GOOD FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, WE ARE THEREFORE ENDEAVORING TO FIND A WAY TO REMEDY AND OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM. IT IS NOT ENDED YET, BUT IT COULD BE SAID TO BE AT THE FIRST ROUND ONLY.

REPORTER: IS THERE ANY PROBLEM IN REGARD TO SENDING OUR AMBASSADOR BACK TO SAIGON?

CHATCHAI: THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY. BUT I INTEND TO CHANGE OUR AMBASSADOR, TO CHANGE THE WHOLE OF OUR EMBASSY STAFF. SOUTH VIETNAM HAS CHANGED ITS, SO WE OUGHT TO CHANGE OURS, BUT TO WHAT EXTENT WE CAN CHANGE OURS DEPENDS ON OUR BUDGET.

REPORTER: IN ITS STATEMENT, SOUTH VIETNAM SAYS THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE RETURN TO IT OF ITS PROPERTIES WILL PROLONG THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

CHATCHAI: SINCE WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY CONTACT FOR AS LONG AS 30 YEARS, A DELAY OF ONLY A FEW DAYS WOULD NOT CAUSE ANY PROBLEM. THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION LEFT TODAY BECAUSE IT WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE TODAY, NOT BECAUSE NEGOTIATIONS DID NOT ACHIEVE SUCCESS. I BELIEVE IT CAME HERE TO SEE WHETHER OUR ATTITUDE WAS FRIENDLY. IT SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT CANNOT BE FINISHED EASILY, THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT HAVE TO BE HELD. I SAID THAT WE ARE READY AND WILLING TO SEND A DELEGATION TO HOLD FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS IN SAIGON, TAKING TURNS IN BEING THE HOST COUNTRY.

REPORTER: THEN WILL BE NEXT MEETING BE HELD IN SAIGON?

CHATCHAI: YES, BUT NO DATE HAS BEEN FIXED YET.  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BANGKO 09263 211617Z

REPORTER: WILL IT BE NECESSARY FOR RELATIONS TO BE NORMALIZED AFTER AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN RETURNED?

CHATCHAI: THIS IS THE SITUATION. WE ARE AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. IN OUR STATEMENT OF POLICY ON MARCH 19, WE SAID WE WILL IMPLEMENT A FOREIGN POLICY WHICH IS INDEPENDENT, MAKING OUR OWN DECISIONS. THESE NEGOTIATIONS JUST HELD ARE WITH DIGNITY AND BASED ON EQUALITY; THEREFORE IN ANY ACTION WE TAKE WE MUST STUDY THE ATTITUDE OF THE OTHER SIDE ALSO. WHAT IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE IS THAT WE MUST PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRY IN FULL AND WITH DIGNITY.  
WHITEHOUSE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RECOGNITION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, AIRCRAFT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, PROPERTY WAR CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO09263  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750179-0104  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750529/aaaaazop.tel  
**Line Count:** 167  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BANGKOK 9170  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHATCHAI ON THE PRG DELEGATION VISIT TO BANGKOK CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TH, VS, US, (CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006